

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A user interface apparatus ~~for use in one of a hybrid-fiber coaxial cable system and a fiber-optic access system, the apparatus operable to adapt signals received at an optical receiver for distribution within a user premises, the apparatus comprising:~~

an optical receiver responsive to an application optical signal;

signal distribution wiring within said user premises;

a first adaptor circuit ~~coupled to~~ interposed between the wiring and the optical receiver, and operable to select at least one channel transmitting signals modulated in a first format, ~~and the first adaptor circuit is connected to wiring within the user premises;~~ and

a second adaptor circuit connected to the wiring within the user premises and operable to receive signals ~~transmitted~~ outputted on the at least one channel and convert the outputted signals to a format compatible with customer premises equipment that is different from a format of the signals outputted on the at least one channel.

2. (Original) The user interface apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first adaptor circuit includes a band selector operable to select the at least one channel from a plurality of available channels.

3. (Original) The user interface apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second adaptor circuit sends signals to the first adaptor circuit indicating the at least one channel for transmitting signals to the second adaptor circuit.

4. (Original) The user interface apparatus of claim 3, wherein the second adaptor circuit receives, from a user input device, signals indicating the at least one channel for transmitting signals to the second adaptor circuit.

5. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the first modulation format is a QPSK format and the second adaptor circuit is operable to convert signals in QPSK modulation format to a QAM modulation format.

6. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the signals received from the first adaptor circuit include one or more of digital video signals, digital audio signals and data.

7. (Delete) .

8. (Delete) .

9. (Currently Amended) An adaptor apparatus coupled to a user premises and operable to receive media signals transmitted over a distribution plant in a first format, the adaptor circuit comprising:

first adaptor circuitry coupled to customer premises equipment and operable to (1) receive signals indicative of a channel selection from a user input device, (2) receive on a channel associated with the channel selection, the media signals in the first format and (3) convert the signals to a second format compatible with the customer premises equipment; and

second adaptor circuitry coupled to the first adaptor circuitry and operable to receive signals indicative of a channel selection from the first adaptor circuitry and send the media signals in the first format on the selected channel to the first adaptor circuitry;

~~The adaptor apparatus of claim 8,~~ wherein the first format is a QPSK modulation format and the second format is QAM modulation format.

10. (Delete) .

11. (Original) A method of converting signals received from a head-end over a distribution plant including at least one fiber-optic link to a format compatible with customer premises equipment comprising:

receiving the signals in a first format from the head-end in a downstream bandwidth;

selecting at least one channel in the downstream bandwidth carrying some of the received signals;

transmitting the signals carried in the selected at least one channel on the selected at least one channel to an adaptor circuit; and

converting the signals received on the selected at least one channel to the format compatible with customer premises equipment at the adaptor circuit.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting at least one channel comprises steps of:

receiving a signal indicative of a desired channel from a user input device; and sending a signal to a band selector instructing the band selector to select one or more channels that include the desired channel.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of converting the signals comprises a step of converting the signals from a QPSK modulation format to a QAM modulation format.

14. (Currently Amended) A cable television system including a head-end transmitting media signals to a plurality of users via a plurality of distribution plants characterized in that comprising:

at least one of said distribution plants is a hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant connected to the head-end; and

at least one of said distribution plants is a fiber-optic access system connected to the head-end;

wherein media signals transmitted on the fiber-optic access system are transmitted at the same bit rate per radio frequency channel as media signals transmitted on the hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant.

15. (Original) The cable television system of claim 14, wherein the media signals transmitted on the hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant are transmitted on radio frequency channels spaced at approximately 6 MHz and transmitted at a data rate of approximately 5 Msymbol per sec; and the radio frequency channels include one of 256-QAM channels and 64-QAM channels.

16. (Original) The cable television system of claim 15, wherein the media signals transmitted on the fiber-optic access system are transmitted on 20 Msymbol per sec QPSK channels spaced approximately between 20 and 24 MHz.

17. (Original) The cable television system of claim 15, wherein the fiber-optic access systems include one of fiber-to-the-curb and fiber-to-the-home distribution plants.

18. (Original) The cable television system of claim 14, wherein the media signals transmitted on the hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant are modulated using a format that requires less spacing between radio frequency channels than the modulation format used for the media signals transmitted on the fiber-optic access system.

19. (New) (Currently Amended) A user interface apparatus comprising:

- an optical receiver responsive to an application optical signal;
- signal distribution wiring within said user premises;
- a first adaptor circuit interposed between the wiring and the optical receiver, and operable to select and output a channel of signals modulated in a first format from a plurality of channels, which channel contains distinct sub-channels; and
- a second adaptor circuit interposed between said wiring and customer premises equipment, and adapted to convert said channel of signals from said first format to a second format that is compatible with said customer premises equipment that is enabled to select a sub-channel from among said sub-channels.

20. (New) (Currently Amended) A user interface apparatus comprising:

- an optical receiver responsive to an application optical signal;
- signal distribution wiring within said user premises;
- a first adaptor circuit interposed between the wiring and the optical receiver, and operable to select and output at least one channel of signals modulated in a first format from a plurality of channels, which channel contains distinct sub-channels; and

at least two second adaptor circuits, each interposed between said wiring and a CPE adapted to handle information of a chosen one of said sub-channels, and adapted to convert a channel of signals that is selected by said first adaptor, from said first format to a second format, where said second format is compatible with said CPE's ability to choose a sub-channel from among said sub-channels.